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## MAP NOTICES.

BY

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The Geological Survey has recently issued eleven additional sheets of the Atlas of the United States, most of them representing areas in the western States and Territories.

The only sheets in the eastern part of the country are in Maryland. The first of these is that known as Patuxent, which is in effect a republication on a reduced scale, 1:125,000, with contours at intervals of 20 feet, of an area of about 1,000 square miles, lying immediately east of the city of Washington, in central Maryland.

The other is known as Grantsville, and is situated in the western part of Maryland, and is on a scale of 1:62,500, with a contour interval of 20 feet. It represents a portion of the Allegheny Plateau, which is here somewhat dissected, and exhibits considerable structure, the streams and ridges showing parallelism with the valleys and ridges of the Appalachian valley.

In North and South Dakota there is one sheet, Ellendale, on a scale of 1:125,000, with contours of 20 feet. This sheet represents a portion of the western part of James River valley, and upon its western edge the slopes of the Coteau du Missouri. The entire area of this quadrangle is built up of recent glacial deposits, upon which a drainage system is in process of formation. The streams are few in number, and have cut but slightly into the surface. The Coteau is a long, narrow tongue of glacial deposits, lying west of James River valley, and limited on the west sharply by Missouri River. It rises rather abruptly on the east from the James River valley to an altitude of 400 or 500 feet above it, its extreme height above the sea upon this sheet slightly exceeding 2,100 feet. Its surface is extremely irregular, consisting of small, rounded hills, alternating with sink-holes, some of which are still filled with water forming lakes without outlet.

In Nebraska there are three sheets, viz.: David City, Wahoo and Whistle Creek. Of these the first two are upon a scale of 1:125,000, and represent adjoining portions of the valley of the Platte River, here quite as broad and level as elsewhere, and bordered upon the south by a line of steep bluffs, some 200 feet in height. Upon the David City sheet the Platte is joined by Loup River. The former

stream was at the time of survey, August, entirely dry, while the Loup River, although a plains stream, carried considerable water. The river system of Nebraska presents many interesting and curious features, which will well repay the detailed study of the physiographer.

Whistle Creek sheet is in the western part of the State, and represents a portion of the broken, undulating surface of the high plains.

In eastern Wyoming is one sheet, Goshen Hole, representing, like the last, broken country of the high plains. The scale is 1:125,000, and the contour interval is 20 feet.

In Indian Territory are two sheets, Coalgate and Atoka, both upon the scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 50 feet. The former represents a rolling, undulating country, lying mainly south of Canadian River, in the Choctaw Nation; the latter lies immediately south and represents a very similar country. The curiously winding, crooked ridges of the Ozark Hills barely extend into the eastern edges of these sheets.

In southwestern Oregon is one sheet, Port Orford, upon a scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 100 feet. This represents the Pacific Coast and a portion of the Coast ranges, which here are broken and irregular in the highest degree.

Among these sheets is the first one from Alaska, known as the Forty Mile sheet. This is upon a scale of 1:250,000, or about four miles to an inch, with a contour interval of 200 feet. It includes a square degree, with an area of about 2,000 square miles. The expression "square degree" is rather a misnomer in this case, as the height of the sheet is twice as great as its breadth. The area included lies between latitudes  $64^{\circ}$  and  $65^{\circ}$ , and longitudes  $141^{\circ}$  and  $142^{\circ}$ , the eastern limit being the eastern boundary of the Territory. The country ranges in altitude from 600 feet upon the Yukon, to 6,000 feet, the summit of Glacier Mountain. The surface is plainly that of an undulating, dissected plateau, the surface of which ranges in elevation from 2,000 to approximately 4,000 feet. This sheet is published in connection with Document No. 25, Fifty-fifth Congress, Third Session.

With this document are published several other maps of exploration in Alaska, which deserve mention. There are altogether ten of them; eight, including the Atlas sheet just mentioned, being the product of exploring parties of the U. S. Geological Survey, the other two being made by Army parties, under the direction of Capt. W. R. Abercrombie. Those executed by the U. S. Geolog-

ical Survey are upon a uniform scale of 1:625,000, or about ten miles to an inch, relief being expressed by sketch contours.

No. 2 (No. 1 being a general map of Alaska) represents the head of Cook Inlet and the lower course of Sushitna River; No. 3 the headquarters of Skwentna and Kuskokwim rivers; No. 4 part of Bristol Bay and middle Kuskokwim River; No. 5 lower Kuskokwim River; No. 6 represents the region between Knik Arm and Tanana River, and No. 9 portions of Tanana and White rivers; No. 7 represents the lower Copper River and the trail thence to Port Valdes; and No. 8 the eastern portion of Prince William Sound. The last two are upon a scale of 1:376,000, and relief is expressed by sketch contours.

The Coast Survey has recently issued a large map of Alaska in four sheets, upon a scale of 1:200,000, a scale sufficient to allow the introduction of many additional details.

The same organization has issued a chart of Glacier Bay and the Muir Glacier, embodying the work of Prof. Harry Fielding Reid, with many additions from the work of his own assistants. This is a valuable and interesting map for the thousands of tourists who visit this, the most accessible and interesting glacier region of the country.

*Report of the Boundary Commission upon the survey and re-marking of the boundary between the United States and Mexico, west of the Rio Grande. Fifty-fifth Congress, Second Session, Document 247, Parts I and II, in one volume. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1898. Quarto, pp. 240, illustrations 42.*

The report is accompanied by an album of 258 plates, made from photographs, illustrating the surroundings of the boundary posts. It is also accompanied by a large folio atlas of 24 plates, most of which are maps, showing the topography of a strip five miles in breadth along the boundary line. The scale of these maps is 1:60,000, and the relief upon them is expressed by contours 20 metres apart. Succeeding plates show the profile of the line.

The boundary between the United States and Mexico was first run and marked between 1849 and 1856, but although run with considerable accuracy, the monuments, owing in great part to the difficulty of transportation, were few in number and not of a high degree of permanence. The result is that great uncertainty has developed in regard to the location of the boundary, an uncertainty which has caused much trouble to settlers in its neighborhood. On account of this an International Boundary Commission was estab-

lished by the two republics in 1882, and in the succeeding year a reconnaissance was made, by its authority, of the boundary for the purpose of developing its deficiencies. No steps were, however, taken at that time for resurveying it, and the Commission expired by limitation in 1889. In 1891 it was revived, the following being the United States members:

Lieut. Col. J. W. Barlow, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

Asst. A. T. Mosman, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

First Lieut. D. D. Gaillard, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

Under this Commission the line has been re-run and permanently marked. For its establishment the latitude was observed at 27 points, and the longitude of 5 points was determined, viz.: San Diego, Cal.; Yuma, Ariz.; Nogales, Ariz.; Boundary Corner 40, Ariz., and El Paso, Tex. The old line was accepted so far as it could be identified by monuments, and between them the line was re-run and monumented. These monuments are hollow iron posts filled with concrete.

Almost the entire course of the line is through an arid region, where water is extremely scarce, and a large part of the expense involved in establishing the line was for the transportation of water for the supply of the parties. There is probably no more desert part of the country than that section traversed by this international boundary.

H. G.